



VIVIAN ADAIR

Biographical Data: Born 1916 in Clinton, South Carolina

Education: Graduated Brenau College in 1937; majored in mathematics and French

NACA/NASA Experience: Employed 1943-1973; Computer: 19 ft. Pressure Tunnel, Two-Dimensional Low Turbulence Pressure Tunnel (LTPT), & Gas Dynamics Division; Bell Computing Section & Analysis and Computation Division (ACD); involved in variable density research

Vivian Adair had taught school for six years in South Carolina and Georgia, before she took the Civil Service Exam. Hired as a computer at Langley in 1943, she initially worked in the East Area, in a computing pool headed by Virginia Tucker at the 19 Foot Pressure Tunnel. In a 1990 interview, Adair recalled she had never heard of NACA prior to being offered the job, and spent three days waiting in Hampton to find out if it had come through. Over the course of her thirty-year career, Adair worked in several divisions, including at the Low Turbulence Pressure Tunnel under Eastman Jacobs. She (along with Kathleen Wicker) was also part of the Bell Computing Section, formed to program and run one of Langley's earliest electronic computers. She later moved on to the Analysis and Computation Division.

Sources: Beverly Golemba, *Human Computers: The Women in Aeronautical Research*, unpublished manuscript 1994, NASA Langley Archives.

"Panel Discussion with Women Computers" NASA Langley videotape, December 13, 1990.